

B L O O M I N G T O N BRIEFING



OCTOBER 2019

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DRED SCOTT FACILITIES TO BE IMPROVED

At nearly 50 acres, it's hard to miss Dred Scott Playfield. Many a baseball, softball, soccer, volleyball and tennis game has been played there. All that use requires not only routine maintenance but also long-overdue upgrades to the park.

"It's time. We're revitalizing the park facilities and giving Dred Scott a new image. It will be much more operational and functional for park users with updated features," Recreation Supervisor Mike Ramirez said.

This fall, the wheelhouse building, which includes restrooms and concessions, will be renovated and converted from a two-story to a one-story building to become Americans with Disabilities Act compliant. There will also be a more serviceable concession stand and tournament headquarters.

"The goal is to replace bleachers, add shade structures and redesign bathrooms for easier access," Ramirez said. "The project is to be completed over the winter so Dred Scott Playfields will be fully operational by April 2020, when the spring and summer season begins."

For more information, visit blm.mn/parks or call 952-563-8877.

KNOW BEFORE YOU VOTE: LIQUOR REGULATION QUESTION ON THE BALLOT

In the General Election Tuesday, November 5, voters will decide whether to remove a section of the City Charter that regulates intoxicating liquor. If approved, intoxicating liquor would be regulated by state law and the City Code. One potential result of this change would be that the City Council could create new licenses to allow new types of intoxicating liquor establishments, including brewer taprooms and cocktail lounges.

FIRST OF ALL, WHAT IS A CITY CHARTER?

There are two types of cities in Minnesota: charter and statutory. Bloomington is a charter city, which means that it has its own "constitution" that provides additional regulations. A charter affects everything the City government does. It provides the basis for most municipal regulatory functions and for the delivery of municipal services.

WHAT IS THE BALLOT QUESTION?

The question asks voters: "Shall the Bloomington City Charter be amended to delete Section 12.12, which would allow the City Council to adopt ordinances authorizing additional types of places to serve and sell alcohol in the City?"

WHY IS THIS QUESTION ON THE BALLOT?

State law requires some charter amendments related to the sale of intoxicating liquor be placed on the ballot.

HOW MANY VOTES ARE REQUIRED FOR PASSAGE OR FAILURE OF THIS BALLOT QUESTION?

Passage requires a "yes" vote from at least 55% of people voting on the question. A non-vote on the question has no impact on the calculation of the vote.

IF THE BALLOT QUESTION PASSES, HOW SOON WOULD THE CHANGE TAKE EFFECT?

If approved, section 12.12 of the City charter would be removed 30 days after the election.

IF THE BALLOT QUESTION PASSES, CAN THE CITY ISSUE LICENSES TO NEW TYPES OF PLACES?

In order for the City to issue new types of liquor licenses, the City Code will need to be amended after public notice and a public hearing. One license that is allowed by state law but not currently in the City Code is a brewer taproom license.

IN PLAIN LANGUAGE ...

If you want to expand the types of liquor licenses the City Council can create and approve, vote "yes" on the charter question. If you don't, vote "no." For more information, visit blm.mn/voting or call 952-563-8729 or 952-563-4989.

Read more about the General Election, including how to find your polling place, on page 8.



MAYOR’S MEMO

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE: BLOOMINGTON’S AMENITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

By Mayor Gene Winstead

Bloomington’s high quality of life is a result of many things. Amenities and services provided by the City are among them. It’s not always the fun, visible stuff that makes the biggest impact, although things like parks and public events are important. It’s the behind-the-scenes operations of a good city—like public safety, well-maintained streets, and safe, award-winning water—that make a daily difference in residents’ lives. That stuff doesn’t just happen. It takes planning and investment in infrastructure.

The City is always investing in the maintenance of strong infrastructure. Another area that needs upkeep is our park facilities. Great parks improve quality of life and stabilize neighborhood desirability and property values.

It is not possible to do everything all the time, so projects are scheduled out and phased in. During my 25 years as an elected official, I’ve been dedicated to moving forward projects that promote residential stability and are best for Bloomington, but there is still work to do.

Throughout this year, we’ve been talking about the need to reinvest in or reimagine aging City facilities. Several Parks and Recreation buildings fall into this category, the community center being one of the larger projects on the table, but there are others—everything from trails to concession stands to ballfield buildings to playgrounds.

We’re already moving forward with these types of projects under the City Council’s strategic priorities. Bloomington Ice Garden needed upgrades to be ADA compliant and up-to-date with coed dressing room standards. The City’s fire stations are also in need of improvements. We’re building a new Fire Station 3 that will be more energy efficient and have adequate space for equipment and training.

Hyland Greens Golf and Learning Center is another sizeable project that’s being discussed with community input. An open house was held in August to give residents a chance to learn more about proposed plans and join the discussion.

We want to make Hyland Greens a more operational facility and we figured out there’s no easy fix. By partnering with the Professional Golf Association, we can add a new, better amenity more aligned to future community needs.



CITY SCORES WELL IN NATIONAL POLL

Bloomington residents are feeling good about their safety and the economy, according to The National Citizen Survey™. A total of 1,007 residents answered the random sample poll between May 7 and June 18, 2019.

Bloomington as a place to live earned a 91% approval rating.

A majority of residents gave positive ratings to the City’s governance. Eight in ten respondents offered scores of excellent or good to the overall quality of City services and to the customer service provided by employees.

Nearly all respondents reported feeling safe in their neighborhoods. More than 9 in 10 residents gave excellent or good scores to Bloomington’s police and fire services.

Most scores for Bloomington’s economy were higher than ratings observed around the country. Ratings for Bloomington as a place to work, shopping opportunities,

and economic development eclipsed those in comparison communities.

Respondents poured out their praise for Bloomington’s drinking water. This year’s approval rating of 91% tied for all-time high since the survey began in 2012.

Snow removal was rated in the top 15% of all jurisdictions polled nationwide.

The score for Bloomington’s recreation centers was 75%, a decline of 8% since the survey began in 2012.

Opportunities for improvement exist, particularly in public transportation and street repair.

This was the eighth year in a row that the poll was conducted by the National Research Center of Boulder, Colorado.

For more information and survey results, visit the City’s website at blm.mn/2019survey.

BRIEFING

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The *Briefing*, published monthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer file to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3071; PH 952-563-8819; MN Relay 711; FAX 952-563-8715; Email: jhill@BloomingtonMN.gov
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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733. Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.



MOA TRANSIT STATION NEARLY COMPLETE

Did you know Mall of America Transit Station ranks as a top transportation hub statewide? More than 2 million riders use the transit center annually. It provides service to the Metro Blue Line light rail, Metro Red Line bus rapid transit, more than 10 bus routes and future service for the Riverview Corridor—and this year it’s getting a makeover.

The \$25 million renovation improves the efficiency of bus and train operations, provides a bus-only entrance separate from mall deliveries and eliminates the need for buses to cross light-rail tracks. The upgraded transit center also links directly to MOA’s east entrance. The new design includes updated lighting and real-time departure signage, and makes the station more visible and appealing from 24th Avenue. As a project partner, the City allocated \$5 million (derived from property tax increment financing from MOA) to the transit station’s upgrade. The new bus operations area was completed this past summer. Project completion is anticipated by end of fall 2019.

HOW DID VALLEY VIEW BECOME THE PREFERRED COMMUNITY CENTER SITE?

Bloomington City Council and City staff have been discussing ways to revamp the community center for many years. In 2015, a resident task force met to talk about options for improving the existing Creekside Community Center. The group recommended building a new facility to serve all residents. Since then, the City Council has directed staff to look into many locations as potential sites.

In early 2019, the City Council was focused on two potential sites—Civic Plaza and the existing Creekside Community Center. After considering many different options at each site, it was determined that neither was large enough for the community center being considered with the amenities residents and the task force had requested. At a study meeting this spring, councilmembers directed staff to look into Valley View Park, which is currently home to the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center, as a possible site.

The aquatic center was originally constructed in the 1970s. The facility is in line for a pool shell replacement in 2026—a \$15 million project. The City has already set aside \$5 million for that replacement. By combining a new aquatic center that includes indoor and outdoor amenities with a new community center, residents could have access to a pool year-round. Additionally, Valley View Park is large enough to accommodate the community center being envisioned.

The City is currently in the process of hiring an architect to work with the City and residents to decide what a new community center could look like and what amenities to include. The City will also seek resident input on a master plan for the surrounding park. Residents can give feedback and learn more about the project at engagement events this fall. A neighborhood and Valley View users community input session will be held in Valley View Park, 9000 Portland Avenue South, Tuesday, October 8, 5 – 7 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be moved indoors. For updates and more information, visit blm.mn/communitycenter.

“We hope you’ll participate in that process. Tell us what you’d like to see in the community center and the park,” Parks and Recreation Director Ann Kattreh said.

Learn more or give feedback on the project at visit blm.mn/communitycenter or call 952-563-8896.

REAL ID: EASY AS A, B, C

Standard Minnesota driver’s licenses will be accepted for official purposes, including air travel and federal facility entry, for one more year through October 1, 2020.

When it’s time for a new license, you have a choice of Real ID, Enhanced ID or Standard ID. Starting in October 2020, only Real ID or Enhanced ID will be acceptable for domestic air travel. (Passports will still be acceptable for domestic and international air travel.)

READY FOR A NEW DRIVER’S LICENSE? HERE ARE THE ABCs.

A – Additional documentation

More documents are needed to apply for Real ID and Enhanced ID. The Real ID Act requires Minnesota and other states to verify each document. All documents must be originals or certified copies. For information, visit blm.mn/realid.

B – Bloomington license office

Not all cities have driver’s license offices, but Bloomington does. The Motor Vehicle/Deputy Registrar Office, 9930 Logan Avenue South, provides full services, including processing ID applications. Visit blm.mn/license, call 952-563-8719 or email motorvehicle@BloomingtonMN.gov.

C – Changed your name?

Ever had a name change? If your current name is different from the name appearing on one or more documents, you will be required to submit proof for each name change.

Save time online

An online pre-application lists each requirement step by step. Complete it before visiting Bloomington’s Motor Vehicle Office and save yourself time. The pre-application is available at blm.mn/preapp.

For more information, call 952-563-8719 or visit blm.mn/realid.



PLANS UNVEILED FOR HYLAND GREENS GOLF

Hyland Greens Golf and Learning Center might be getting a new look. During an open house held in August, residents heard more about the reimagining of Hyland Greens as the new “home of golf” for Minnesota and a potential partnership with the Minnesota Section of the PGA.

The MN Section of the PGA would take over operations and construct a new building that would serve as a clubhouse, event center and home to the Minnesota Golf Hall of Fame. Classroom and indoor golf training areas would also be included. A detailed project timeline and estimated costs are still being determined. The project would be financed entirely from private sources. For more information, visit blm.mn/pgamou.



SOUTH LOOP WATER PARK PROJECT UPDATE

After discussion by the Council and Port Authority in July, the City will be entering into a public-private partnership with the nonprofit Provident Resource Group. Provident would own, borrow money for and operate the proposed \$260 million water park for 30 years. Triple 5, the developers that own Mall of America, would lease the land for the water park to the City. In turn, the City will sublease it to Provident. The water park would function as a separate nonprofit entity and be open to the general public.

The new 330,000-square-foot water park would bring an estimated \$1 million in new admissions and lodging taxes to the City. No Bloomington property taxes are at risk for the project debt. A discount on admission to the water park for City of Bloomington residents is planned.

Construction could begin in 2020 and take two years to complete. For information, visit blm.mn/waterpark or call 952-563-4861.



KEEP STREETS LEAF FREE

Pretty fall leaves can make water turn ugly. Did you know leaves are a major cause of poor water quality?

If leaves are placed in the street, they get into storm sewers and can cause blocked drains and even neighborhood flooding. From the storm sewer, leaves make their way to water bodies. As the leaves decay, their phosphorus and other nutrients spark algae growth.

Under Minnesota law, leaves are prohibited from landfills and burning facilities. Have your yard waste hauler take away your leaves. As an alternative, you could turn your leaves into free mulch. Use a power mower to chop up leaves and you'll have ready-made, nutrient-rich mulch for your lawn and garden beds.

For more information, visit blm.mn/pw or call 952-563-8760.

STREET SWEEPING COMING YOUR WAY

Every spring and fall, the City sweeps and flushes more than 300 miles of streets and bike lanes. In a three-step process, trucks wet down streets, sweepers gather debris and haulers take collected leaves to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community composting facility.

Help us make a clean sweep by keeping your leaves out of the street. Remember, fall sweeping is not a leaf clean-up program but a fall sweep of the city. Residents are asked to clean up leaves in front of their homes and to keep storm drains clear through the fall.

Want to know when your neighborhood will be swept? Visit blm.mn/sweep or call 952-563-8760 for information. Endpoints alternate yearly to ensure no section of the City is always first or last to be swept.



HIDDEN GEMS: DISCOVER MORE AT MOIR PARK

At Moir Park, there's more in store for you. A playground, volleyball court, disc golf course and softball diamonds are hidden away at West 104th Street and Morgan Avenue South. The seclusion makes this park a true hidden gem and the ideal spot for a walk or picnic.

Moir is the west link in a leafy, 218-acre chain of parks, including Harrison Picnic Grounds and Central Park, which stretch from just south of Old Shakopee Road to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. From Moir Park, head a few steps east, then turn south to get lost in nature.

"The trails along Nine Mile Creek are arguably some of the best in the Twin Cities," Recreation Supervisor David Benson said. "It's a bit of an escape. The geography almost takes you to another place."

For more information, visit blm.mn/moirpark or call 952-563-8877.

THE SCOOP ON DOG WASTE

Picking up after your pet is good for your yard and neighborhood. Collectively, improperly disposed (or forgotten) pet waste can have a lasting effect on the environment. The longer pet waste remains on the ground, the more contaminants will linger even after the waste is picked up.

Dog owners and handlers can help by picking up dog waste right away and placing filled waste bags in garbage cans. Be prepared and keep waste bags on hand when you take a dog outside. A City ordinance calls for dog owners and handlers to clean up after their dogs from any sidewalk, street, park, school, public place or private property.

For more information, visit blm.mn/dogwaste or call 952-563-8877.



BATTLE BUCKTHORN THIS FALL

Common and glossy buckthorn are two invasive shrubs that were first brought from Europe as a hedging material. Lacking any of the animals, insects and diseases that kept the plant in check in its native range in Europe, buckthorn can grow undisturbed and take over our woods, parks and yards.

Buckthorn is a problem because it crowds out native plants and endangers pollinators by limiting their habitat. If you have buckthorn in your yard, fall or winter is the best time to remove it. There will be fewer bugs and buckthorn leaves stay green longer than native plants, making it easier to spot. Check with your local garden center or hardware store for recommendations on effective weed killers to use on buckthorn. For more information, call 952-563-8760.

ADOPT A DRAIN AND PROTECT WATER

You can help preserve and protect Bloomington's water by adopting a storm drain. The Adopt-a-Storm Drain Program is an easy and cost-free way to make a difference.

To get started, sign up for the program. Next, plan to clean out your storm drain at least once in the fall and once in the spring. (Some storm drain adopters clean more often depending on needs.) Twice a year, report your debris removal online or by returning a postcard. Program participants receive a yard sign to show they are protecting our waters.

To learn more about adopting a storm drain or to sign up, visit adopt-a-drain.org.



MEET A FIREFIGHTER

Fire Inspector Bobby Wotherspoon has been a Bloomington firefighter for nearly 20 years. He’s been a full-time fire inspector at the City for seven years where he conducts code enforcement and provides fire prevention education.

Q: What do you like to do when you aren’t working or volunteering?

A: I like spending time with my family—my wife, Siobhan, our daughters Lily and Isabelle and our dog McGee. I like playing golf and softball, too.

Q: What made you want to become a firefighter?

A: Back in the day, my dad was a firefighter for Bloomington at Fire Station 4. So I guess it’s always been in the back of my mind, but it wasn’t until 1999 that I was easily convinced to join the department.

Q: What do you like most about firefighting?

A: The adrenaline rush you get when the pager goes off and you hop in the truck to go help someone in need. I also enjoy knowing that the time and effort we put forth in training at the BFD makes us ready for any challenge.

Q: What is a little-known fact about you?


A: I got a hole-in-one at Dwan Golf Course, hole 15, back in 2012.



GET TO KNOW YOUR FIRE STATION

Ever wondered what it’s like to sit in the driver’s seat of a fire truck? Or what the inside of your local fire station looks like? Get an inside look at these things and more at the 2019 fire station open houses. Each year during National Fire Prevention Week, the Bloomington Fire Department celebrates by opening all its stations to the public for an afternoon of fun, food, and fire prevention education.

This year’s fire station open houses will take place Saturday, October 12, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Station events include cookies, juice, a coloring contest, fire equipment demonstrations and a plow truck. There will also be a car seat clinic at Station 1, by appointment only. To make a car seat clinic appointment, call 952-563-4801.



RULES OF THE ROAD: HANDS FREE

The new hands-free law took effect in Minnesota on August 1. The law aims to make roads safer by preventing distracted driving crashes. So, what do you need to know?

What’s allowed under the new law?

Minnesota’s new hands-free law allows drivers to use their cell phones to make calls, text, listen to music or podcasts and get directions—but only by voice commands or single-touch activation without holding the phone.

What’s not allowed?

Drivers may not hold their phones in their hand or use their phones at any time for video calling, video live-streaming, Snapchat, gaming, looking at videos or photos, using non-navigation apps, reading texts, scrolling or typing on the phone.

What are the penalties?

The first ticket is \$50 plus court fees and the second and later tickets are \$275 plus court fees.

Can I ever hold my phone?

Yes. Handheld phone use is allowed to obtain emergency assistance, if there is a threat to life and safety, or when in an authorized emergency vehicle performing official duties.

For more information, visit blm.mn/handsfree.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH AWARENESS

October is domestic violence month, and a time to advocate against gender-based violence. During 2018, Minnesota had 14 domestic violence-related deaths, according to the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.

You can make a difference with this serious issue.

1. Be there if someone has been affected by domestic violence. “We know it usually takes seven-plus times for a person to leave a domestic violence situation and that person will at significantly higher risk of lethal violence when they do,” Crime Victim Liaison Biiftuu Ibrahim Adam said.
2. Don’t be afraid to call the police, 952-563-4900 or call 911 for an emergency.
3. If you or someone you know experiences domestic violence, get help. Call the Cornerstone Advocacy Service, 952-884-0330, Standpoint Action Line, 612-343-9842 or the Minnesota Day One 24 Crisis Line, 866-223-1111 (text 612-399-9995.)
4. Help raise awareness. Participate in national wear purple day to recognize efforts to end domestic violence on Thursday, October 24. Post on social media with #DVAM2019.

For more information, visit blm.mn/violence.



HELP OTHERS, GIVE BLOOD

Giving blood is quick and easy, and can make a big difference to those who are in life-or-death situations. One donation could save up to three lives.

Sign up to donate at the Bloomington Community Blood Drive Wednesday, October 9, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Online registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. For more information, contact the American Red Cross at 1-800-REDCROSS or visit blm.mn/blooddrive.



GET YOUR FLU SHOT

Public Health is hosting community flu shot clinics Wednesday, October 9, 4 – 6 p.m., at Redemption Lutheran Church, 927 East Old Shakopee Road, and 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 8600 Fremont; Wednesday October 16, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., at Creekside, 9801 Penn Avenue; Tuesday, October 22, 4 – 6 p.m., at Oak Grove Middle School, 1300 West 106th Street; and Tuesday, October 29, 5 – 6:30 p.m., at Creekside.

The clinics are open to all and no appointment is necessary. Bring an insurance card if you have one. For free shots, let the nurse know you don’t have insurance. Children under 18 must have a parent or guardian present. For more information or additional clinic dates, call 952-563-8900 or visit blm.mn/flushots.



OUTDOOR MARKET
CLOSING FOR SEASON

All good farmers markets come to a seasonal end. The last outdoor Farmers Market will take place October 19, 8 a.m. – 1 p.m., in the east parking lot of Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. Join us every Saturday until then. Plan for the indoor Winter Market on Saturdays, November 9, December 14, February 8 and March 14, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Civic Plaza. For more information, visit blm.mn/market or call 952-563-8877.



STOCK UP AND SAVE AT
FARE FOR ALL

Stock up on food and save up to 40% on brand-name products at a Fare For All event. Everyone is welcome to participate. Regular packages of fresh fruits and vegetables cost \$10 – \$25. During November and December, holiday packs are available for \$30. Mark your calendar for Fare for All on Wednesdays, October 16, November 13 and December 11, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. For information, call 952-563-4944 or visit blm.mn/cccp program.

VETERANS BRUNCH
AND SHOW

Celebrate Veterans Day with brunch and a *Sinatra and Company Show* on Sunday, November 10, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., at 2501 West 84th Street. Mayor Gene Winstead will present opening remarks. The brunch is complimentary for all veterans, active duty military and one guest; additional guests are \$13 each. Reservations are required by November 4. Call 952-563-8733 or email outreach@BloomingtonMN.gov.



NAME _____ GRADE _____ PHONE _____

HALLOWEEN COLORING CONTEST FOR KIDS

Enter the coloring contest for a chance to win prizes and see your art displayed at the Citywide Halloween Party. Start from the artwork pictured above and use markers, crayons or colored pencils to create your own masterpiece. The contest is open to preschool to fourth-grade children. First-, second- and third-place prizes will be awarded for each age group. Return your colored entry (either by U.S. mail or drop-off) by 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 21, to Parks and Recreation, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431.

A SPOOKY GOOD TIME FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Join us for a fun and safe Citywide Halloween Party, 6 – 8 p.m., October 31, at Bloomington Ice Garden, 3600 West 98th Street. This event is for preschoolers through fourth graders accompanied by an adult. Children will enjoy trick-or-treat alley, open skating, games, prizes and much more. Admission is free. A donation of a nonperishable food item for the VEAP food shelf would be greatly appreciated. This free event is sponsored by the Bloomington Optimist Club and Bloomington Parks and Recreation. For more information, call 952-563-8877 or visit blm.mn/halloweenparty.

SEE HISTORY THROUGH PHOTO SHOW

With a passion for bringing Minnesota history to life through photography, Doug Ohman will share his perspective of “Minnesota Byways” Monday, November 18, 9 – 10 a.m., at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Enjoy entertaining stories as Ohman presents his professional photographs of barns, churches, courthouses, schoolhouses, cabins and libraries. This program is free to all. Registration ends Wednesday, November 13, or when full. For more information or to register, call 952-563-4944 or email CommunityCenter@BloomingtonMN.gov.

PAINT A PIER AT CREEKSIDE

Discover the fun and versatility of acrylic painting. In partnership with Artistry, Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, is offering a two-day acrylic painting class for adults. On Tuesday, November 5, and Friday, November 8, 1 – 3 p.m., learn how to break down an image into simple shapes, values and color patterns while painting a pier as your subject matter. Mix and control gradations in color, creating effects through blends, dry brushing and layering. Cost is \$30, and materials are provided. No previous art experience is required. For more information and registration, call 952-563-4944.

DANCE YOUR SOCKS OFF!

Put on your dancing shoes and get ready to boogie at Parks and Recreation’s Dance Your Socks Off event. The dance is for adults with disabilities ages 18 and up. It will take place on Friday, October 25, 7 – 9 p.m., at Creekside, 9801 Penn Avenue. The theme is Halloween, so come dressed in your best costume! Tickets can be purchased at the door, or register and pay in advance online at blm.mn/arle. The cost to attend is \$6 per participant (includes a free beverage). Support staff will be admitted free and can purchase beverages for \$1 each. Door prizes will be given near the end of the evening; must be present to win. Transportation is available for participants through TRAIL. TRAIL riders must request TRAIL by noon the Monday before the dance by calling 952-563-8877. Minimum of four riders required.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

After 99 1/2 years, Louise Dean Mosher, nee Louise Aretta Dean, has tales to tell—and many took place in Bloomington. Through family friendships and marriages, she has ties to numerous Bloomington founders (Palmer, Nord, Baillif and more), a legacy she’s passing to her five children, 14 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

As a matriarch, military wife and nurse’s aide, Mosher has led a full life. Today, she’s still in good spirits thinking about how to celebrate her 100th birthday this March.

Over the years, she’s learned to appreciate the past while keeping a positive outlook for the future. What’s her secret to such a long and healthy life?

“Go with the flow, laugh, give and take, and have faith,” Mosher said.

In an heirloom book brimming with handwritten stories, she remembers her favorite farm animals, surprise home visits from American Indians and how she hated bugs. More straightforward times meant a life melded by extended family and devoted worship. “As I started retracing memories, there seemed no end of good ones,” Mosher wrote.

With great sadness, we report the passing of Louise Dean Mosher on September 8, a few weeks after the interview for this story. We offer sincere condolences to her family.



NOTABLE NEIGHBORS: PROUD, PRIZEWORTHY STATE FAIR PARTICIPANTS

The Minnesota State Fair beckons many a proud participant. Competitions run aplenty and some Bloomington residents take part. See how some of your neighbors compete at the fair.

Elmer Dockendorf, *at right*, has more fretwork projects than he can count and many won ribbons at the state fair. At 89, the longtime resident remains an active competitor. Win or lose, Dockendorf takes pride in his lifelike replicas of historical buildings.

Leather sandals, a cross-stitch pillow and a leather corset earned Amanda Fineran ribbons. Since 2016, Fineran has entered cleverly crafted handmade items.

Artistry’s Operations Manager Nancy Lamberger puts her creative interest to the test at the fair. For nearly 25 years, she has competed with her paintings. “Those years when your work is accepted are what keep you going,” Lamberger said.

Andrew Monson won first place for barbecue sauce and fourth place for beef jerky. Breads and jellies are also on his competitive menu. “It’s so much fun, everyone should try entering something at the fair in their lifetime,” Monson said.



POPLAR BRIDGE PARK GETTING NEW PLAYGROUND

A new playground is coming to Poplar Bridge Park. Children from Poplar Bridge Elementary School are frequent users of the six-acre park, at 4600 West 85th Street, along with many other Bloomington residents.

New equipment and surfacing are part of the plan. Typically, park playgrounds have a lifespan of 20 – 25 years, while school playgrounds have a lifespan of 15 – 20 years.

“Existing equipment is tired and has reached the typical age of replacement,” Recreation Supervisor Mike Ramirez said.

Poplar Bridge Elementary School students participated in the playground planning process and voted on renderings.

“We want to build a playground kids will like and are going to use,” Ramirez said.

The project is a collaboration between Bloomington Parks and Recreation and Bloomington Public Schools. Construction began in September and completion is expected this fall. For more information, visit blm.mn/parks or call 952-563-8877.

AT YOUR SERVICE: JILL MURPHY

Since 2003, Jill Murphy has been a familiar face around the City in her various roles in Parks and Recreation. Her experience working and managing facilities led to her current position as Creekside Community Center Manager, a job she has held for nearly one year.

“Our active adult senior population participate in a variety of programs for fitness, hobbies and more,” Murphy said. “Our participants are wonderful. It’s great to see them enjoy the programs and hear their stories.”

In addition to Creekside visitors, Murphy enjoys working with her superb staff, and the chance to grow into new areas, including developing programs for Creekside. She’s currently looking into ways to expand programs and creating opportunities for all ages.



DON’T MISS JURIED ART EXHIBITION

Want to see some of the best art in town? Artistry’s 43rd Annual Members’ Juried Art Exhibition will be held in the Inez Greenberg Gallery, Friday, October 4 – Friday, November 15. The show begins with an opening reception and awards ceremony, Friday, October 4, 6 – 8 p.m.

Artistry’s former executive director Andrea Specht served as juror of the show. Artists competed for 13 awards, including a \$500 best of show award. To find out award winners or for other information, visit blm.mn/artistry or call 952-563-8575.

EVENTS AT THE REFUGE THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL AND BAT DAY

The Cultural Festival will feature multicultural food, activities and performances. This free event will take place Saturday, October 12, 1 – 4 p.m. It is organized by Together Bloomington and is a Creative Spark project commissioned by the City in partnership with Artistry.

You can also embrace your interest in spooky things at the third annual Minnesota Bat Festival. Come celebrate the unique role that bats play in our world on Saturday, October 26, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Both events will take place at the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington Education and Visitor Center, 3815 American Boulevard East.

For more information, visit blm.mn/refugeevents.



VOTE NOVEMBER 5

The Bloomington City Clerk’s Office administers municipal and school district elections in odd-numbered years. Voting is your opportunity to be engaged and have a voice on important issues that impact our community. Exercise your right to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5. The polls will be open 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. Find your polling place at blm.mn/pollingplace.

WHERE CAN I LEARN ABOUT CANDIDATES?

Wondering who would best represent you on the City Council or School Board? Voters can learn more about the candidates through filmed testimonials and forums available to view on the City website at blm.mn/voting. The following candidates are running for office:

Mayor

- Tim Busse
- Ryan Kulka

Councilmember at large

- Jenna Carter
- Brian “Clem” Clemens

Councilmember District 1

- Dwayne A. Lowman
- Al Noard

Councilmember District 2

- Shawn Nelson
- Susan “Hofmeister” Woodruff



GET PREREGISTERED BY OCTOBER 15

All eligible voters can check their voter registration status prior to Election Day at blm.mn/registered.

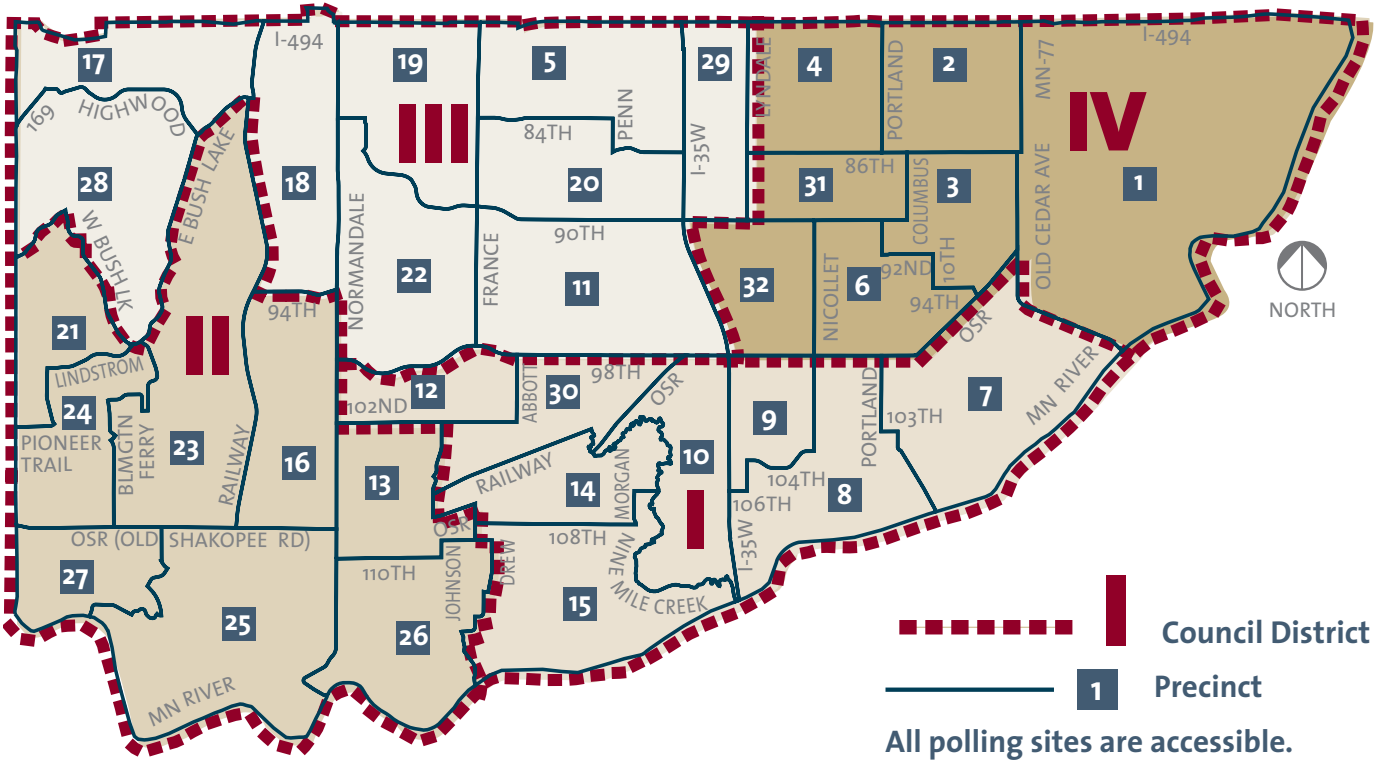
If your registration needs updating or you’ve never voted before, you can register online before October 15 at blm.mn/register.

ILLEGAL CAMPAIGNING

Bloomington Civic Plaza is a polling place on Election Day and for 46 days preceding Election Day for absentee voting. This means campaigning is not allowed anywhere on the property or parking lots. Illegal campaigning includes, but is not limited to, the display or distribution of campaign materials, attire, signs, buttons, etc. Please keep Civic Plaza politically neutral and impartial.

YOUR GUIDE TO THE GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 5

POLLS ARE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY. ALL POLLING PLACES ARE ACCESSIBLE.



Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
1 Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center 3815 American Boulevard East	West entrance Visitor lot (W)
2 Portland Avenue United Methodist Church 8000 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
3 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Avenue South	West entrance Door 4 South lot Accessible entrance: Door 1, East lot
4 Unity South Church 7950 1st Avenue South	Main entrance South lot
5 Southtown Baptist Church 2600 West 82nd Street	Main entrance (W) Northwest lot
6 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance North lot
7 Atonement Lutheran Church 601 East Old Shakopee Road	Southwest entrance South lot
8 Grace Covenant Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South	Southeast entrance East lot
9 Nativity of Mary Catholic Church 9900 Lyndale Avenue South	Main entrance Door 9 South lot
10 St. Luke’s Lutheran Church 1701 West Old Shakopee Road	Northeast entrance North lot
11 Bloomington City Hall (Bloomington Civic Plaza) 1800 West Old Shakopee Road	East entrance East lot
12 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East lot
13 Bloomington Covenant Church 10150 Xerxes Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East and North lots
14 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance (S) South lot
15 Minnesota Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 10715 Zenith Avenue South	Main entrance North lot
16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South	Northeast entrance (left doors) North lot
17 Hyland Hills Ski Chalet 8800 Chalet Road	Main entrance Main lot (E)
18 The Church of St. Edward’s 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South	SW entrance Upper level, SW lot
19 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
20 St. Mark’s United Church of Christ 8630 Xerxes Avenue South	South entrance Southwest lot
21 Hyland Visitor Center 10145 Bush Lake Road	West entrance West lot
22 St. Michael’s Lutheran Church 9201 Normandale Boulevard	Main entrance (E) East lot
23 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (N) North lot
24 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road (Same location as Precinct 23.) NEW POLLING PLACE	Main entrance (N) North lot
25 MN Masonic Heritage Center 11411 Masonic Home Drive	Main entrance (W)
26 Transfiguration Lutheran Church 11000 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
27 Bethany Church 6900 Auto Club Road	West entrance West and north lots
28 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road	Main entrance North lot
29 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Avenue South	Southwest entrance Southwest lot
30 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance Northeast lot
31 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 East 90th Street (Social Hall)	Main entrance East lot
32 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance North lot

EARLY AND ABSENTEE VOTING

Voting by absentee ballot is allowed for any eligible voter in the city. In-person voting is conducted at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, on the following dates:

- Mon. – Fri., Sept. 20 – Nov. 4, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Extended hours: Sat., Nov. 2, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Mon., Nov. 4, 4:30 – 5 p.m.

Absentee voting is also available by mail through Hennepin County Elections at 612-348-5151 or with an online application at blm.mn/henncovote. A postage-paid envelope is provided to return your completed absentee ballot for counting.



VOTING INFORMATION: CALL 952-563-8729 OR VISIT BLM.MN/VOTING.